

C.) AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the Application.

1. (currently amended) A wild game call comprising:
a box having a base attached to substantially vertical sidewalls, the sidewalls forming an opening; and
a striking plate comprising at least one friction material and having a main body ~~operatively connected to the box~~ permanently attached to at least two sidewalls to form a top of the box, the at least one friction material being disposed on a top striking surface of the striking plate, the top striking surface being configured to be used with a striker, the main body being substantially coextensive with the sidewalls and comprising a protruding portion being disposed adjacent to the opening and being configured to extend over and beyond the opening.
2. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 1, wherein the protruding portion comprises a bottom surface and wherein the bottom surface of the protruding portion is a bottom striking surface.
3. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 1, wherein a thickness of the striking plate varies over a length of the plate.
4. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 3, wherein a thickest portion of the striking plate is adjacent a sidewall opening.
5. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 4, wherein a thickness of the protruding portion of the striking plate narrows gradually to form a thin

unsecured end.

6. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 2, wherein the striking plate comprises a plurality of friction materials.

7. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 6, wherein the plurality of friction materials are arranged such that one friction material provides an entire top striking surface.

8. (original) The wild game call of claim 6, wherein the plurality of friction materials are arranged such that each friction material provides at least a portion of the top striking surface.

9. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 1, wherein the striking plate is further comprised of at least one hollow or semi-hollow structure which extends along at least a portion of a length of the striking plate.

10. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 9, wherein the at least one structure comprises at least one groove in a bottom surface of the striking plate.

11. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 10, wherein a shape of the at least one groove is selected from the group consisting of: rectangular, v-shaped, and rounded.

12. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 9, wherein the at least one structure is comprised of at least one channel in the striking plate.

13. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 12, wherein a shape

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of at least one channel is selected from the group consisting of: triangular prism, rectangular prism, and cylinder.

14. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 9, wherein at least one channel is entirely enclosed within the striking plate.

15. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 9, wherein at least one channel is comprised of at least one open end.

16. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 6, wherein the plurality of friction materials are arranged such that one friction material provides the entire bottom striking surface.

17. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 6, wherein the plurality of friction materials are disposed to form at least a portion of the bottom striking surface.

18. (previously presented) The wild game call of claim 1, wherein a sidewall comprises an aperture.

19. (original) The wild game call of claim 1, wherein a material selected from the group consisting of galvanized steel, sand, weather resistant thermoplastic, and combinations thereof is embedded in the striking plate.

20. (currently amended) A wild game call comprising:

a box, the box comprising:

a base attached to substantially vertical sidewalls, the sidewalls forming an opening; and

a striking plate comprising a main body and a protruding portion, the main body being substantially coextensive with the sidewalls and having a top striking surface on a top exterior surface of the box comprising at least one friction material, the main body being permanently attached to at least two sidewalls, the top exterior surface being configured to be used with a striker, the protruding portion being disposed adjacent to the opening and being configured to extend over and beyond the opening.